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means for counting to generate event count information from the plurality of filtered event notifications; and
means for conveying alarms to the OMC based on the event count information.

REMARKS

In an Office Action dated October 23, 2002, (paper no. 8) the Examiner rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being unpatentable over Dowden (U.S. patent no. 5,923,247). The rejections are traversed and reconsideration is hereby respectfully requested.

With respect to claim 1, the Examiner stated that Dowden teaches a system for reducing congestion in an Operations and Maintenance Center (OMC), the system comprising a network element that includes, among other items, a filter receiving event notifications from processes within the network element and providing a plurality of filtered event notifications, wherein each event notification of the plurality of event notifications notifies of a different event (col. 4, lines 46-67; col. 5, lines 9-20), an event counter module coupled to the filter for receiving the multiple filtered event notifications from the filter and counting a quantity of event notifications to produce event counter information (col. 6, lines 25-67), and a performance measurement module coupled to the event counter module for receiving the event counter information from the event counter module and sending alarms to the OMC (col. 7, lines 9-67; col. 8, lines 45-67).

The applicants respectfully disagree. First, Dowden teaches a fault monitor (20 in FIG. 1) that consists of a computer that is separate from, and independent of, the network elements (2-5 in FIG. 1). The processes performed by the fault monitor are then merely meant to distinguish transient fault notifications from persistent fault notifications by counting the gross number of fault notifications received during a predetermined interval and then activating an alarm indicator when the fault monitor determines that persistent fault notifications have been received based on the count.

By contrast, claim 1 provides a filter, event counter module, and performance measurement module that are all included in the network element. In addition, claim 1

teaches a filter, event counter module, and performance measurement module that reduce congestion at the OMC by reducing the message flow between the network element and the OMC. Dowden teaches nothing about OMCs or controlling message flow to an OMC.

Furthermore, claim 1 provides a filter receiving event notifications from processes within the network element and providing multiple filtered event notifications, wherein each event notification of the multiple event notifications notifies of a different event, and an event counter module coupled to the filter for receiving the multiple filtered event notifications from the filter and counting a quantity of filtered event notifications to produce event counter information. Dowden does not teach such a filter. Instead, whatever filtering is performed in Dowden is performed by an event counter, which counts the gross number of fault notifications received and generates an alarm indication based on the fault notification count. There is no filter in Dowden that filters event notifications so that the filtered event notifications are counted.

Therefore, Dowden does not teach the limitations of claims 1 of a network element that includes, among other elements, a filter receiving event notifications from processes within the network element and providing multiple filtered event notifications, wherein each event notification of the multiple event notifications notifies of a different event, an event counter module coupled to the filter receiving the multiple filtered event notifications from the filter and counting a quantity of filtered event notifications, and a performance measurement module coupled to the event counter module for sending alarms to the OMC. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully request that claim 1 may now be passed to allowance.

Since claims 2-6 depend upon allowable claim 1, the applicants respectfully request that claims 2-6 may now be passed to allowance.

Claims 7 and 14, as amended, provide for reducing the number of event notifications sent to an OMC by a network element serviced by the OMC by filtering event notifications to provide multiple filtered event notifications, wherein each event notification of the plurality of event notifications notifies of a different event, counting

the multiple filtered event notifications to generate event count information from the filtered event notifications, and conveying an alarm to the OMC if the event count information exceeds a threshold. As noted above, Dowden teaches nothing concerning reducing the number of event notifications sent to an OMC by a network element or conveying an alarm to the OMC. Furthermore, Dowden merely teaches counting a number of fault notifications to determine whether to trigger an alarm. Nowhere does Dowden teach a filtering of event notifications filtering to provide multiple filtered event notifications, which multiple filtered event notifications are counted. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully request that claims 7 and 14 may now be passed to allowance.

Since claims 8-13 depend upon allowable claim 7 and claims 15-20 depend upon allowable claim 14, the applicants respectfully request that claims 8-13 and 15-20 may now be passed to allowance.

As the applicants have overcome all substantive rejections given by the Examiner and have complied with all requests properly presented by the Examiner, the applicants contend that this Amendment, with the above discussion, overcomes the Examiner's objections to and rejections of the pending claims. Therefore, the applicants respectfully solicit allowance of the application. If the Examiner is of the opinion that any issues regarding the status of the claims remain after this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative to expedite resolution of the matter. Furthermore, please charge any additional fees (including extension of time fees), if any are due, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2117.

Respectfully submitted,

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Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

1. (Three times amended) A system for reducing congestion in an Operations and Maintenance Center (OMC), the system comprising a network element that comprises:

a filter receiving event notifications from processes within the network element and providing a plurality of filtered event notifications, wherein each event notification of the plurality of event notifications notifies of a different event;

an event counter module coupled to the filter for receiving the plurality of filtered event notifications from the filter and counting a quantity of filtered event notifications to produce event counter information; and

a performance measurement module coupled to the event counter module for receiving the event counter information from the event counter module and sending alarms to the OMC.

7. (Three times amended) A method for reducing the number of event notifications sent to an Operations and Maintenance Center (OMC) by a network element serviced by the OMC, the method comprising the steps of:

filtering event notifications to provide a plurality of filtered event notifications, wherein each event notification of the plurality of event notifications notifies of a different event;

counting the plurality of filtered event notifications to generate event count information from the filtered event notifications; and

[emitting] conveying an alarm to the OMC if the event count information exceeds a threshold.

14. (Three times amended) An apparatus for reducing the number of event notifications sent to an Operations and Maintenance Center (OMC) by a network element serviced by the OMC comprising:

means for filtering to provide a plurality of filtered event notifications, wherein each event notification of the plurality of event notifications notifies of a different event;

means for counting to generate event count information from the plurality of filtered event notifications; and

means for [emitting] conveying alarms to the OMC based on the event count information.